

The Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District, is preparing an Draft Decision Notice, Finding of No Significant Impact, Final Environmental Assessment, and Forest Plan Amendment for the **Ely Ranger District Wilderness Management Plan** in order to establish supplemental management direction that focuses on preserving wilderness character for all nine wilderness areas on the Ely Ranger District, including the BLM portion of Mt. Moriah, under a policy of non-degradation. The Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) (1986) does not include management direction for the five USFS wilderness areas that were designated in 2006 White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act (WPCCRDA), and the management direction found in the LRMP for the four wilderness areas designated in 1989 is not adequate or specific enough to ensure the USFS is meeting the mandate of preserving wilderness character intended in the 1964 Wilderness Act. The BLM's Mt. Moriah Wilderness Management Plan was scheduled for revision in 2005.

The proposed action is to amend the wilderness management sections of the LRMP for the Humboldt National Forest, specific to the Ely Ranger District. The primary changes would be to the Standards and Guidelines for wilderness management found on pages IV-71 and IV-72 in the LRMP, as well as, subsequent sections (IV-137 through IV-195) pertaining to the management areas found within the Ely Ranger District, as well as, the Forest Plan Amendments 1 and 7 relating to the designation of the four Wilderness areas in 1989 and two Research Natural Areas in 1998. This alternative would establish standards and guidelines for the five wilderness areas designated in 2006.

The proposed action description, Final Environmental Analysis, Wilderness Management Plan, Forest Plan Amendment and other information are available for review at the Ely Ranger District and online at

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa_epa_project_exp.php?project=38334

Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Joshua T. Simpson, Ely Ranger District, 825 Avenue E, Ely Nevada 89301. 775-289-5129, jtsimpson@fs.fed.us

The responsible official is the **Forest Supervisor** of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

How to Object and Timeframe

This proposed decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 219, Subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who submitted project-specific written comments during scoping or other designated comment periods for this project. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted comments unless based on new information arising after the designated comment period(s).

Written objections, including any attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Reviewing Officer at: Objection Reviewing Officer, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; or fax to 801-625-5277; or by email to: objections-intermtn-regional-offices.fed.us within 45 days following the publication date of the legal notice in the Elko Daily Free Press, the newspaper of record.

The date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source.

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, pdf, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc or .docx). Please add "Ely Ranger District Wilderness Management Plan Objection" in the Subject line. It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (§ 219.56).

Objections must include the following content as required by 36 CFR 219.54(c): 1) name, address and telephone or email; 2) signature or other verification of authorship upon request; 3) identification of a single lead objector when applicable; 4) project name, Responsible Official name and title, and name of affected National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s); 5) A statement of the issues and/or the parts of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision to which the objection applies; 6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If applicable, the objector should identify how the objector believes that the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy; and; 7) A statement that demonstrates the link between prior, substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment (§ 219.53(a)).